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The Massacres Against Jews in Palestine’s Civil War, November 1947 to March 1948

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Throughout this past 23 months we’ve heard all the stories from the pro Hamas propagandists and influencers telling us about the ”Nakba” (which never actually happened), and about “massacres” like Deir Yassin which they offered half truths intermixed with complete lies. But what they never tell you about are the many incidents that led to events such as Deir Yassin of April 1948. Well this article will detail exactly that... from the day the UN published their Partition Plan in November 1947 through to March 1948... 5 months of brutal savagery that you need to read the details of to appreciate how disturbing and horrific and bloodthirsty these Arabs were... with full British complicity in these atrocities.

The period between November 1947 and May 1948 marks one of the most turbulent chapters in modern Middle Eastern history. Following the United Nations’ vote on November 29, 1947, to partition Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states, the region erupted into a civil war that pitted Jewish communities against Arab militias. This conflict, fought under the shadow of the British Mandate, was characterized by guerrilla warfare, blockades, and a series of brutal attacks that targeted civilians as much as fighters. For the Jewish population, known as the Yishuv, the months leading up to Israel’s independence were fraught with peril. Roads became battlegrounds, villages turned into fortresses, and convoys transformed into death traps. Amid the chaos, several massacres stood out for their sheer ruthlessness, claiming hundreds of lives and deepening the scars of division.

While the war’s narrative often focuses on the broader struggle for statehood, it’s crucial to remember the human cost, particularly the targeted violence against Jewish civilians, medical personnel, and defenders. These acts weren’t isolated skirmishes but part of a concerted effort by Arab irregular forces to isolate Jewish settlements

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and terrorize the population. From bus ambushes to bombings in crowded streets, the attacks escalated as the British prepared to withdraw. By March 31, 1948, the death toll from these incidents had already painted a grim picture of what was to come. Drawing from historical records and eyewitness accounts, this article chronicles every major massacre against Jews during this five-month span, highlighting the bravery of those who faced unimaginable horror and the lasting impact on the fledgling nation.

The violence ignited almost immediately after the UN partition vote. On November 30, 1947, just a day after the resolution passed, Arab gunmen ambushed two buses carrying Jewish passengers near the village of Fajja, close to Petah Tikva. The first bus, en route from Netanya to Jerusalem, was riddled with bullets, killing five passengers outright and wounding several others. Half an hour later, a second bus heading south from Hadera suffered a similar fate, with two more Jews slain. These weren't random acts; they were coordinated strikes aimed at Jewish transportation, signaling the start of a "battle for the roads." Snipers from nearby Arab villages fired relentlessly, and the attacks spread to Jerusalem and Haifa, where buses came under fire. In total, seven Jews perished that day, setting a precedent for the ambushes that would follow. The British forces, still in control, did little to intervene, leaving the Yishuv to fend for itself.

As December unfolded, the conflict intensified in urban areas. On December 12, 1947, in the heart of Jerusalem's Old City, Arab assailants stormed into the Jewish Quarter, a historic enclave surrounded by Arab neighborhoods. Twenty-eight Jewish civilians, including women and children, were murdered in a frenzied assault. Homes were looted, and bodies mutilated, evoking fears of pogroms from Europe's dark past. This attack came amid growing tensions, with Arab leaders calling for jihad against the partition plan. The following day, reprisals occurred, but the initial massacre underscored the vulnerability of isolated Jewish communities. Just weeks later, on December 30, 1947, one of the deadliest incidents of the period erupted at the Haifa Oil Refinery.

The refinery, a vital economic hub employing both Jews and Arabs, became a flashpoint after a bomb thrown by members of the Jewish underground group Irgun killed six Arab workers. In retaliation, an enraged Arab mob, armed with clubs, knives, and axes, turned on their Jewish colleagues. Thirty-nine Jews were slaughtered in the ensuing riot, many hacked to death while trying to flee. British troops eventually restored order, but not before the bodies piled up. This massacre highlighted the explosive mix of labor tensions and nationalist fervor, turning workplaces into killing fields. The Haifa incident also spurred a wave of Jewish evacuations from mixed cities, as trust between communities shattered overnight.

January 1948 brought no respite, with the focus shifting to rural outposts and supply lines. The most heart-wrenching event of the month was the massacre of the Convoy of 35, also known as Lamed Heh in Hebrew, on January 16. A group of 35 young Haganah fighters, mostly university

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students and scouts in their late teens, set out on foot from Hartuv to reinforce the besieged Gush Etzion settlements south of Jerusalem. Laden with supplies like ammunition and medicine, they trekked through hostile hills under cover of night. But as morning broke, local Arab shepherds spotted them, alerting militiamen from surrounding villages. Hundreds of armed Arabs encircled the group on a barren hilltop. The Jews fought valiantly for hours, using rocks when bullets ran out, but they were overwhelmed. All 35 were killed, and their bodies were horrifically mutilated... heads severed, genitals cut off... in acts of barbarity that shocked even battle-hardened observers. Only fragments of clothing and personal items identified the victims later. This massacre not only deprived Gush Etzion of vital aid but also symbolized the sacrifices of the Yishuv's youth, inspiring poems and memorials that endure today.

Meanwhile, in Jerusalem, the urban terror campaign ramped up. On February 1, 1948, a car bomb exploded outside the offices of The Palestine Post, a prominent Jewish newspaper. The blast, orchestrated by Arab forces with the aid of British deserters, killed 22 people and injured dozens more. The building was gutted, but the paper's staff heroically printed the next edition from a makeshift press. This attack was part of a series targeting Jewish institutions, aiming to cripple morale and infrastructure.

The deadliest single blow came on February 22, 1948, with the Ben Yehuda Street bombing in central Jerusalem. In the early morning hours, a convoy of stolen British army trucks, driven by Arab militants and more British deserters, parked on the bustling commercial street. Packed with explosives, the vehicles detonated in a massive blast that leveled several buildings, including hotels and shops. Fifty-three Jews, from shopkeepers to residents to passersby, were killed, with over 100 wounded. The explosion's force shattered windows across the city, and rescue efforts dragged on for days amid the rubble. Eyewitnesses described scenes of utter devastation: limbs scattered, survivors screaming for lost loved ones. This massacre, attributed to followers of the Mufti Haj Amin al-Husseini, was meant to strike at the heart of Jewish life in Jerusalem, and it succeeded in sowing widespread fear.

Just weeks later, on March 11, 1948, another car bomb targeted the Jewish Agency building in Jerusalem, the de facto headquarters of the Yishuv's leadership. Thirteen people died in the explosion, which collapsed part of the structure and injured 84 others. Again, British deserters were implicated, driving the vehicle laden with TNT. This attack aimed to decapitate the Jewish political apparatus, coming at a time when negotiations with the British were already strained. The cumulative effect of these February and March bombings was profound: over 88 lives lost in Jerusalem alone from these three incidents, paralyzing the city and forcing residents into bunkers.

As March progressed, the "battle for the roads" reached its zenith with devastating convoy ambushes. On March 27, 1948, the Yehiam convoy, consisting of seven vehicles carrying supplies to the isolated Kibbutz

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